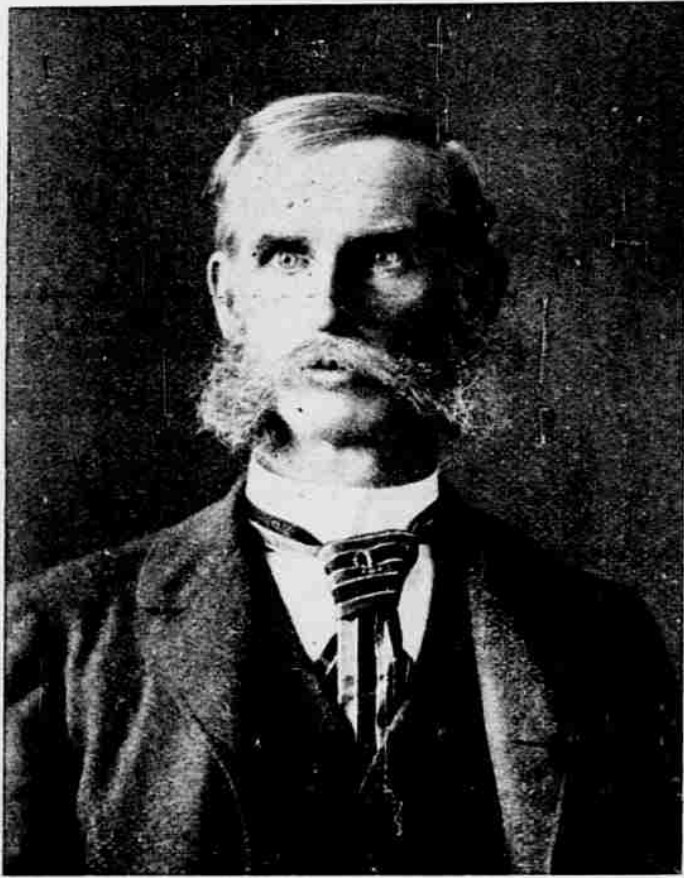


# In The Chinese Hawaii

By Jas. W. Girvin.



JAMES W. GIRVIN.

James W. Girvin is a recognized authority on Chinese matters, having made a study of the subject for many years. He was formerly secretary of the Chinese Bureau under the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hawaiian Re-

public. He is a Canadian by birth but has been an American by choice for many years. He has been in the Islands for the past thirty-seven years, with the exception of a short time spent on the coast mostly in traveling, lecturing and writing for the Press.

**A**S EARLY as 1802 some Chinese came to the Islands in vessels owned by Kamehameha, the Great, one bringing a stone sugar mill with the intention of establishing a sugar plantation. Finding that the locality in which he had located, the Island of Lanai, was unsuitable he returned the following year to China. In the year 1810 the King was trading with China and his annual ventures at that time amounted to \$400,000. Finding that the tonnage tax at Canton was very onerous and was productive of great revenue to China he conceived the idea of establishing a similar tax on foreign vessels in the ports of Hawaii-nee, which was the origin of the Hawaiian customs service.

From 1802 the number of Chinese residing on the Islands slowly increased. Early in the last century, owing to the abuse of native women, a law was passed that no foreigner could marry a native without first taking the oath of allegiance, thereby declaring his intention of making the Islands his home. As some Chinese had taken wives, and others were desirous of doing so, we find as early as 1842 certain of them were admitted to citizenship. It might be mentioned here that they made exemplary husbands and reared fine families, many of whom are intermarried with natives and whites, and all degrees of blood are to be found amongst their descendants.

Bringing with them their sterling industrious and economical habits, they gradually acquired much real and personal property. Their great love of education lead them to send their children to China to acquire the Chinese classics and of late years we find many of them pursuing a higher English education, all of which involves great outlay. It has been remarked by tourists that the Chinese of Hawaii were a superior class to those who go to California, but such is not the case, as they are in both instances largely from the district of Quang Tung, the capital of which is Canton.

The intelligent and prepossessing appearance of the Chinese of Hawaii, as compared with those met with in the Western States, is accounted for, firstly, by the manner in which they have been treated by the residents of the islands, and secondly, through their acquiring so quickly the Hawaiian language, which has been and is a med-

ium for interchange of thought. Although our antipodes in many respects we find that they are exceedingly reciprocal of politeness extended to them. Their merchants here have maintained the high standard for honest dealing which is attributed to those of Hong Kong, Shanghai and the trading ports of China. They have proven to be very law-abiding and are rarely before the courts on charges other than misdemeanors. They have never sought to intermeddle in the politics of the country. A short residence in this country imbues them with a desire that as good a government as is found here may maintain in their own country. Their young men, while joining reform clubs, are thoroughly loyal to the Emperor and are very solicitous that their people at home should acquire the wisdom of the western nations and that the resources of China should be developed. Their merchants are the purveyors of all kinds of goods to every valley in the islands and their little stores, where it would not be profitable for white men to do business, are great conveniences to their respective neighborhoods. Their laborers have been of incalculable assistance in building up every plantation on the islands and have aided much in the development of the prosperity of the country. They have reclaimed large areas of land, which were of old merely swamp and marsh land, and made of them productive properties, which now bring large rents to their owners. In many instances they have leased disused taro lands, too remote to be utilized for cane, and have thereon established rice plantations which yield large revenues to the owners and taxes to the government.

According to the United States census of June, 1900, there were 25,742 Chinese residing on the Hawaiian Islands. Of these there were 22,277 males, and 3465 females. Of these there were 4076 Hawaiian born, m. 2346, and f. 1730.

There are large numbers of Hawaiian born residing in China, who having the right by birth of returning here, may eventually avail themselves of that privilege. The total number of Chinese registered in the internal revenue office exceeds the number found by the census taker, which is accounted for by the registering of many who were classed as of Hawaiian birth by the census. During the years 1895-98 there were probably over 7,000 who

were permitted by the Hawaiian government to come here, not on contracts who signed an agreement to leave the country at the end of three years, or as soon as they ceased to confine themselves to agricultural work. By registering them the United States government has probably given them the privilege of remaining here.

As the wages of laborers in China amount to but from \$6 to \$10 per annum, with board, in local currency, they considered themselves well paid in receiving \$12.50 per month and board in Hawaii. This \$12.50 when converted into Chinese local currency, brought \$25. So that they had much reason to be satisfied with a change which gave them \$300 instead of \$10 per annum. Since annexation has taken place many laborers have returned, and the scarcity of hands has run the wages up to \$26 per month and board. This great advance in price of labor, together with the advanced rent of lands and taxes, has especially militated against the rice planter. He is unable to advance the price of his product, as that is regulated by the rules of supply and demand, the imported article fixing the value. A singular anomaly exists at present in that the Hawaiian rice, a better article, is being sold at fifty cents per hundred less than the imported Japanese or China rice, the well known scarcity of money compelling holders to realize.

As field hands the Chinese are admittedly the best of all nationalities which have been tried. They are satisfied with their wages and will do an honest day's work without the intervention of a penal contract. They are not given to strikes, but settle their individual differences with the employer.

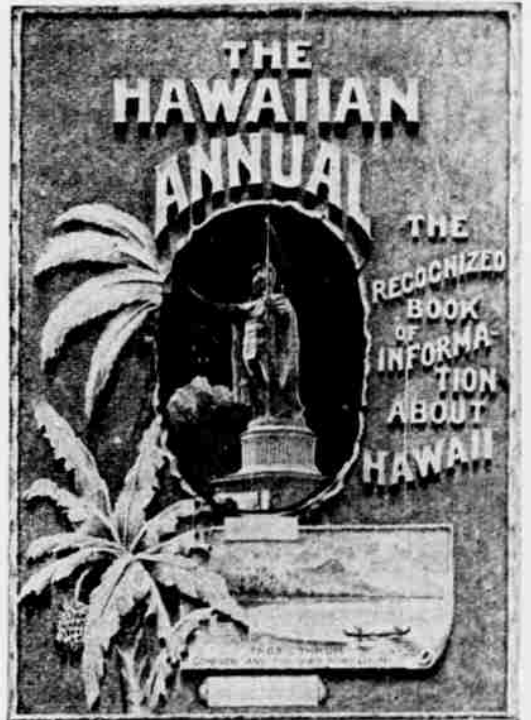
Naturally the Chinese have felt the severity of the exclusion law, which has been most rigorously put in force here where they were accustomed to the mildness of the restriction laws of the late Hawaiian government. Under its terms it was feasible to bring their wives and children to them, and for those who had acquired a residence of two years prior to the passage of the act, permission was granted to go to China and return within two years. A cognate race with the Japanese, the only reason the latter were not included in the exclusion act was that at the time it was passed no material immigration of Japanese had been felt. The exclusion act, which expires next May, was by the treaty and its own terms intended to exclude laborers. Under the rulings of the Secretary of the Treasury, and opinions of the Attorney General, this expressed intention has been extended to excluding salesmen, clerks, buyers, bookkeepers, accountants, managers, storekeepers, apprentices, agents, cashiers, physicians, proprietors of restaurants, laundrymen, barbers, and in fact all classes of laborers, skilled or unskilled. Many of the Chinese capitalists and rice planters live in hope that the present session of Congress will recognize the paramount necessity of admission of more Chinese laborers to Hawaii in order to prevent the threatened extinction of the rice industry. Towards that end they have forwarded a large petition, which was generally signed by people of all nationalities to whom it was presented. They have many reasons to believe that the petition will receive the attention which it deserves, on account of the peculiar conditions existing here. It in no wise conflicts with the exclusion law in that Chinese laborers are prohibited from going to the Mainland from Hawaii by special law. Congress should take into consideration the requirements of a part of the republic which is in the tropics, and where the climate militates against white men engaging in field work, even if they could do the peculiar class of work required in rice planting.

They are large consumers of American food stuffs, as flour, canned goods, ham and bacon, salmon, etc., and all wear American clothing, hats and shoes. The Chinese are not large holders of real estate on the Islands, paying on but 4 per cent, after deducting that paid by American and European corporations. Thirty-five per cent of the taxpayers on the Islands are Chinese, and after deducting amount paid by corporations, they pay 29½ per cent of the personal property taxes. They number 17 per cent of the property owners. In 1899 they paid nearly 35 per cent of the poll, road and school taxes. While paying 35 per cent of the school taxes, but 1,389 Chinese pupils attend public or private schools, being less than 9 per cent in the 195 public and

private schools throughout the Territory. There are employed in the schools twelve Chinese teachers to teach the English language.

It is estimated that the Chinese pay 25 per cent of the Inter-Island freight. All the products of the rice planters are consumed on the Islands. The Chinese have their hospitals and eleemosynary societies, and frequently contribute towards the aid of foreign charitable works. There are several Chinese newspapers published on the Islands, and there are some free public libraries where they make an attempt to keep many of the translations of foreign works and their own periodicals. Many of them who are unable to attend day school, either attend night schools or employ foreign teachers, as a knowledge of the English language is much prized among them. There have been about 750 Chinese admitted to citizenship since 1842, who, together with those born here, are declared by the organic act to be citizens of the United States.

JAS. W. GIRVIN.



## Chrum's Annual,

With each New Year the demand for this condensed encyclopedia of Hawaiian information becomes more marked and each issue shows an improvement over the preceding one. The Annual for 1902 is, we feel justified in saying, the best number ever issued and shows a great amount of painstaking research and careful compilation. For 28 years Thrum's Annual has been the ready reference book for the Islands and in all that time little or no complaint has been made against the correctness of the information set forth, its absolute reliability being generally recognized.

The present number contains in addition to the Hawaiian Almanac and the usual statistics of distances, height of elevations, population, etc., the Custom House tables of imports and exports arranged in handy shape for reference; license rates; census tables up to and including the census of 1900; statistics on education, rainfall, temperature, shipping, labor, sugar and tables showing the returns of the general election of 1900. A number of the special articles are of unusual value, the most prominent one being that on Hawaiian Birds by H. W. Henshaw, followed by Miss J. E. Tilden's first paper on Hawaiian Algae. The history of the great house of Hackfeld & Co., since its inception in 1849 is written up interestingly. Club Life in Honolulu is set forth by the Hon. A. S. Cleghorn. Organizations for the promotion of Agriculture in Hawaii is handled by T. F. Sedgwick, with an outline of the plans and scope of the Experimental Station by Jared G. Smith, special agent in charge; Wireless Telegraphy by W. R. Farrington; Building by W. E. Pinkham and Hawaiian Calabashes by the editor; the Laws of the First Legislature of the Territory of Hawaii are given and information regarding the Hilo Railroad system. The retrospect and information for tourists is complete and up to date.

In no other condensed shape is there so much valuable information to be found and especially for so little cost, 75 cents per copy, postage 10 cents extra, being the price. Mr. T. G. Thrum, the compiler and publisher, is entitled not only to a liberal patronage, but to the thanks of the public as well. Parties outside of Honolulu who desire copies should address T. G. Thrum, Honolulu, Hawaii.